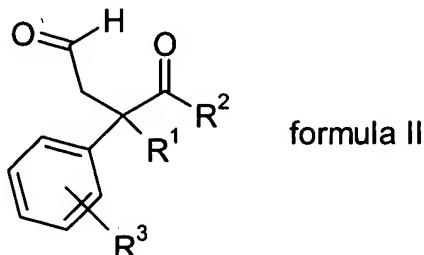


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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula II:

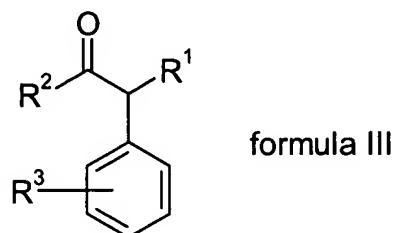


wherein

R¹ is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or (C₁-C₆)alkylthio;

R² is phenyl, naphthyl or (C₃-C₁₂)cycloalkyl substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylhalo, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkenyl or halo;

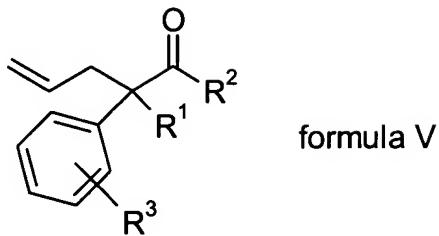
R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylhalo, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkenyl or halo, comprising, treating a compound of formula III



wherein R¹, R² and R³ are described as above, with a suitable base and a compound of formula IV:



wherein X is a suitable leaving group, to provide the compound of formula V



formula V

and oxidizing the compound of formula V with ~~a suitable~~ an oxidizing agent to provide the compound of formula II.

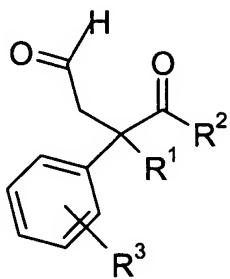
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein
R¹ is CH₃;
R² is cyclohexyl; and
R³ is hydrogen.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 2 wherein
X is Br or Cl.

4. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 3 wherein the ~~suitable~~ oxidizing agent is ozone.

5. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 4 wherein the ~~suitable~~ base is potassium tert-butoxide.

6. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein

R¹ is ~~hydrogen~~, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or (C₁-C₆)alkylthio;

R² is phenyl, naphthyl or (C₃-C₁₂)cycloalkyl substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio,

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(C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylhalo, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkenyl or halo;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylhalo, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkenyl or halo.

7. (Original) A compound according to claim 6 wherein
R¹ is CH₃;
R² is cyclohexyl; and
R³ is hydrogen.